

What is Claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for generating an output waveform at a desired frequency
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of waveform synthesizers each generating an intermediate waveform of an
4 intermediate frequency and including a maximum sampling rate, wherein said intermediate
5 frequency is less than said desired frequency and said maximum sampling rate is less than a
6 minimum sampling frequency required for generation of said output waveform; and
7 a waveform generator to combine said intermediate waveforms from said waveform
8 synthesizers to produce said output waveform.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least said plurality of synthesizers is in the
2 form of at least one of a field programmable gate array (FPGA) and an application specific
3 integrated circuit (ASIC).
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said waveform synthesizers produce a quantity
2 of said intermediate waveforms proportional to said minimum sampling frequency divided by said
3 maximum sampling rate of said synthesizers.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each waveform synthesizer includes:
2 a phase accumulator to produce a phase value of said intermediate waveform; and
3 a phase converter to generate intermediate waveform amplitudes in accordance with
4 phase values produced by said phase accumulator to generate said intermediate waveform.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said intermediate waveform amplitudes
2 generated by said phase converter are in the form of at least one of sine and cosine values.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein each synthesizer further includes:
2 a modulation module to produce a modulated intermediate waveform;

3 wherein said waveform generator combines said modulated intermediate waveforms from
4 said waveform synthesizers to produce said output waveform with modulation.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said modulation module includes:
2 a phase modulation module to apply a phase offset to said phase value to enable said
3 phase converter to generate a phase modulated intermediate waveform;
4 wherein said waveform generator combines said phase modulated intermediate waveforms
5 from said waveform synthesizers to produce said output waveform with phase modulation.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said modulation module includes:
2 a frequency modulation module to apply a frequency offset to said phase value to enable
3 said phase converter to produce a frequency modulated intermediate waveform;
4 wherein said waveform generator combines said frequency modulated intermediate
5 waveforms from said waveform synthesizers to produce said output waveform with frequency
6 modulation.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said modulation module includes:
2 an amplitude modulation module to apply amplitude offsets to said intermediate
3 waveform amplitudes to produce an amplitude modulated intermediate waveform;
4 wherein said waveform generator combines said amplitude modulated intermediate
5 waveforms from said waveform synthesizers to produce said output waveform with amplitude
6 modulation.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said waveform generator includes:
2 a multiplexer to combine said intermediate waveforms from said waveform synthesizers
3 to produce a digital waveform corresponding to said output waveform; and
4 a digital-to-analog converter to convert said digital waveform to said output waveform in
5 analog form including said desired frequency.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each waveform synthesizer applies a
2 corresponding phase offset to said phase value to produce said intermediate waveforms
3 successively shifted in phase relative to each other and collectively encompassing samples of said
4 output waveform.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said multiplexer selects and retrieves said
2 output waveform samples from each successive intermediate waveform in a cyclical fashion to
3 produce said digital waveform corresponding to said output waveform.

1 13. A method of generating an output waveform at a desired frequency comprising:

2 (a) generating a plurality of intermediate waveforms each of an intermediate
3 frequency, wherein said intermediate waveforms are generated by corresponding waveform
4 synthesizers including a maximum sampling rate and said intermediate frequency is less than said
5 desired frequency and said maximum sampling rate is less than a minimum sampling frequency
6 required for generation of said output waveform; and

7 (b) combining said intermediate waveforms to produce said output waveform.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein step (a) further includes:

2 (a.1) generating a quantity of said intermediate waveforms proportional to said
3 minimum sampling frequency divided by said maximum sampling rate of said synthesizers.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein step (a) further includes:

2 (a.1) generating each intermediate waveform by producing phase values of said
3 intermediate waveform and determining intermediate waveform amplitudes in accordance with
4 said produced phase values.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein step (a.1) further includes:

2 (a.1.1) determining said intermediate waveform amplitudes in the form of at least one of
3 sine and cosine values.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein step (a.1) further includes:
2 (a.1.1) generating each intermediate waveform as a modulated waveform; and
3 step (b) further includes:
4 (b.1) combining said modulated intermediate waveforms to produce said output
5 waveform with modulation.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein step (a.1.1) further includes:
2 (a.1.1.1) applying a phase offset to said phase values to generate each intermediate
3 waveform as a phase modulated waveform; and
4 step (b.1) further includes:
5 (b.1.1) combining said phase modulated intermediate waveforms to produce said output
6 waveform with phase modulation.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein step (a.1.1) further includes:
2 (a.1.1.1) applying a frequency offset to said phase values to generate each
3 intermediate waveform as a frequency modulated waveform; and
4 step (b.1) further includes:
5 (b.1.1) combining said frequency modulated intermediate waveforms to produce said
6 output waveform with frequency modulation.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein step (a.1.1) further includes:
2 (a.1.1.1) applying amplitude offsets to said intermediate waveform amplitudes to
3 generate each intermediate waveform as an amplitude modulated waveform; and
4 step (b.1) further includes:
5 (b.1.1) combining said amplitude modulated intermediate waveforms to produce said
6 output waveform with amplitude modulation.

1 21. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) further includes:

2 (b.1) combining said intermediate waveforms via a multiplexer to produce a digital
3 waveform corresponding to said output waveform; and

4 (b.2) converting said digital waveform to said output waveform in analog form
5 including said desired frequency.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein step (a.1) further includes:

2 (a.1.1) applying a corresponding phase offset to said phase values to produce said
3 intermediate waveforms successively shifted in phase relative to each other and collectively
4 encompassing samples of said output waveform.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein step (b.1) further includes:

2 (b.1.1) selecting and retrieving said output waveform samples from each successive
3 intermediate waveform in a cyclical fashion to produce said digital waveform corresponding to
4 said output waveform.